

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

NUMBER THIRTY

Webster County Grand Jury Returns Indictments

Webster County Grand Jury convened on August 12, 2026, returning indictments in two cases and no true bill in a third.

Court records show that no true bill was returned

on all three charges against Daniel Mack Jones. Jones was initially charged with first degree possession of a controlled substance, second offense, methamphetamine; drug paraphernalia-buy/pos-

sess and second degree fleeing or evading police, motor vehicle.

In the case of Bradley David Rakestraw, the defendant's charge of first degree promoting contravanc was

amended to complicity to promote contraband; he was also indicted for conspiracy to traffic a controlled substance, second degree, first offense.

Indictments were re-

turned against Alexis Ray Yates who is charged with first degree promoting contrabanc and second degree trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense, drug unspecified.

Water District Board Hears Project Update

Members of the Webster County Water District board met Thursday, August 13, where they heard an update on an interconnect project with the city of Providence and learned that a service pump at the water plant needs to be replaced.

The meeting opened with the introduction of new office employee Holly McKinley who will replace Beverly Martin who is retiring later this month,

The board also reviewed the July water operations report which reflects the production

of 31,500,987 gallons of water and the sale of 26,963,490 gallons. Superintendent Trevor Baldwin told the board that production difference is down, but hours worked are up. He also noted that Marion, Crittenden County is producing more of their

own water; thus, the sales to that agency are down.

In other reports, Baldwin told the board that the bids for the Providence/WCWD interconnect have been reviewed and the city is expected to approve a bid and construction on that project start soon. The interconnect on KY 120 will likely be completed by the end of 2026, Baldwin said. The project comes at no cost to the county water district.

Baldwin also reported that the city of Providence is working on funding and specifications for a second interconnect with the county water district. That interconnect will be located in the Diamond/Green Grove area o KY 109.

Other reports from Baldwin included the need to advertise for bids for a 700-gallon pump at the water plant near Onton. Ac-

cording to Baldwin, one 700- gallon pump went down and had to be pulled from operation. The 1997 pump "will be pricy to repair," Baldwin told the board, citing a \$70,000 cost. He asked the board to approve advertising for bids for a replacement pump. The board approved the request and set a September 2, bid opening date.

In other action, the water board approved adding McKinley as a signatory for the district's bank accounts.

The water superintendent also reported that he attended a Zoom meeting regarding applications for the purchase of a transfer switch for the water plant. Baldwin noted that the \$10,000 grant would allow the district to purchase the switch that would be used to switch service to a generator in case of a power outage. The board approved the request.

Baldwin will seek quotes and work on the application process.

Before the meeting adjourned, chair Tommy Robertson shared concerns about hacking that water districts in other states are experiencing. He asked Baldwin about the WCWD's security. Baldwin said the local district does have a lot of security measures in place but he is unsure if the local safety measures are as tight as some other districts. Locally, Baldwin said, only two employees have log in access. He added that someone hacking into the system would not make the water "bad" but said water districts nationwide are being cautioned to check the security of their systems.

The next meeting of the Webster County Water District board is September 10, at 9:00 a.m.

Sebree Council Meets, OKs Street Closure Request

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with City Attorney Will Cox presiding in the absence of Mayor Billy Smith. Four council members – Jana Forker, Kathy Edwards, Kord Cooper, and Jim Williams were present. Also in attendance with City Clerk Mary Meredith.

Council members Pam Jones and Perry Culberson were absent.

In a session that lasted only eight minutes, the council conducted two items of business.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved, and council members approved closing Main Street on Friday, September 18 from 2:00 P.M.

to 10:00 P.M. for a community event which is being sponsored by United Community Bank of West Kentucky.

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Meredith told members that officials from Green River Post and David Miller have filed a claim with their insurance provider for damages caused at Sebree Springs Park earlier this summer as work was being done on the construction of a soccer field.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Sebree City Council will be Monday, September 21, 5:30 P.M.

Providence City Council Approves Bids; Hears Citizens' Concerns

Providence City Council met in regular session Monday night approving a water interconnect bid and giving first reading to an updated employee handbook. They also heard department reports.

In a previous meeting the council had reviewed five bids for the city/Webster County Water District interconnect that will be located on KY 120. Those bids ranged in cost from \$101,586.55 to \$316,350. On Monday night, after hearing from city engineers of HMB that the lowest bid met all specifications and the company received satisfactory recommendations, the council awarded the \$101,586.55 bid to Solid Rock Trucking, LLC. Work on the project is expected to begin soon.

Mayor Tom Glover also reminded the council that engineers are also working for plans for a second interconnect with the county water district. That interconnect will be located just outside of Diamond on KY 109. Glover noted that the county will help with that expense.

In other business, council members received a copy of the updated employee handbook on Friday for their review. The city has been working with the Kentucky League of Cities for several month to update the document which was last updated in 1999. Glover noted that some significant changes have been made, and during a discussion pointed out four change recommendations he and the League of Cities support.

Those recommendations include adding Juneteenth to the list of paid holidays for employees, bringing the

number to 12; clarifying the vacation policy for employees; and no longer offer discounts for golf to employees. The council passed first reading of the changes, but will look into some language changes and additions suggested for the employee vacation policy before the second reading and final approval of the handbook. In regards to the employee handbook, Glover said he believes that "with paid holidays, sick time and vacation time, we (the city) are heading in the right direction" in supporting city employees. First reading of the updated handbook passed unanimously.

In other business, the council heard reports from department heads. Police Chief Ray Agent reported that his department had a total of 139 reponses to calls in July including responding to 84 complaints, conducting 28 traffic stops, issuing ten citations; making three arrests, conducting 16 special details, responding to three domestic disputes and providing a number of officer assists.

In the report for the public works department, the council was told that employees are working to keep grass mowed and weed eaten, but the heat is creating fast growing foliage. New trash cans are being distributed by employees as well. The gas, electric and street departments had nothing new to report but continue to work on a list of city projects.

Cameron Brown noted that the fire department made 70 EMS runs, 16 fire runs and conducted two fire prevention sessions. He also reported that the city's new ambulance has been inspected and is in service.

In his comments Monday night, Glover reported that he has learned that during its first year in operation, the ambulance board cannot implement a tax. The city had initially hoped the implementation of the ambulance district tax would offset the first-year payment on the city's new ambulance. Now, he says, the council will have to revisit that plan.

Glover received council approval to make four appointment to the Providence Housing Authority Board. Sue Jackson will serve a one-year term, with a possible renewal of that appointment when the term expires. Paula Glover will serve a two-year term. The mayor noted in making that appointment that he has checked with KLC and because the position is not paid, there are not ethics issues with that appointment. Donald Pitts will service a three-year term and Tonya Morrow will serve a four-year term on the board. The council approved the recommendations.

The mayor is also in the process of finding individuals to serve on the city's ethics board. He has one individual who is willing to sit on that board but will not make recommendations until he has two others who are willing to serve.

Glover announced that the city swimming pool will close on Labor Day, September 7. The mayor will have the pool financial report soon for the council's review. In other business the mayor told the council that The Turn, the new restaurant at the golf course is near the end of its 90 day lease. He added that they will likely extend that lease at the end

of August.

The council also heard a report from code enforcement officer Ron Latham who shared his activity report. Latham told the council that he has issued a number of courtesy notices for property clean-up and has also issued some notices of violation as he has inspected unkempt property in the city. Latham added that he has spoken with a number of residents about cleaning up trash piles, cars and dilapidated property. He added that he has asked one property owner for a plan of action on a house "that needs to come down," and is trying to make contact with an out of state property owner. He is also working to make a burned out house on a property safe until that area is cleared of debris.

Council members also learned at Monday night's meeting that the city continues to correct street light issues and is still working to put the city's ordinances online.

During the public appeals portion of the meeting, Willie Torrain expressed concern about an area near Madison and Foxwell streets that needs gravel and paving. He also addressed an area on Rosemont and Morrow where grass is growing through the gravel. The mayor told Torrain that the city typically takes care of paving issues in September and October if money is available. Torrain also addressed the sewer odor on Westerfield Drive that he said has been an issue for 20 years. The mayor explained that the odor has been an issue since the city began processing sewage from Dixon,

but he added that the county is in the process of changing the lay of that sewer line and that project has to be resolved first; then the city may better understand the issues on Westerfield Drive.

Phillip Halsrud addressed the council for the seventh straight meeting asking for clarification on the city's golf cart and ATV street use ordinance. He once again told the council he is being treated unfairly because his only mode of transportation is a golf cart; however, the city ordinance clarifies that driving golf carts on city streets requires a valid driver's license. Halsrud also raised questions who in the city is appointed to accept ADA grievances. Glover said no one was present at the meeting who could do that. He also raised questions about meeting with the mayor and having changes made to CAD reports that he said "have his name flagged." Attorney Bobby Murray addressed some of Halsrud's questions noting that CAD reports cannot be revised. Murray also addressed Halsrud's request about meeting with the mayor noting that because of a lawsuit filed by Halsrud, it would be inappropriate for the mayor to meet with him without the mayor's legal counsel present.

Before the meeting adjourned, a resident thanked the city for taking care of a street repair and mowing issue that she had addressed at the council's August 3, meeting. Monday's meeting concluded at 7:04, with the next council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, due to the Monday, September 7, holiday.